



Community Members at the launch of an HIV/AIDS support group at SOS Children's Village Ennerdale, Johannesburg

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Focus on HIV/AIDS:

Every 14 seconds, a child loses a parent to AIDS.

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV is a virus. Viruses infect the cells of living organisms, like humans, and make copies of themselves within those cells. Someone who is infected by HIV is said to be HIV positive. People can become infected with HIV by coming into contact with the bodily fluids of a person who is HIV positive.

Activity: Can you make a list of the way people can contract HIV/AIDS?

What makes HIV so dangerous is the fact that it attacks the immune system, which would normally fight off viruses. Over time a person becomes more susceptible to attacks from other infections and becomes increasingly ill. At this point the person has AIDS. There is no cure for AIDS.

HIV/AIDS in South Africa

South Africa (SA) has the fifth highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world. 21.5 per cent of the population, or 9.25 million people, are HIV posi-

tive. 230,000 of these are children. There are a combination of factors that lead to this high rate of infection including: poverty, high levels of other sexually transmitted diseases, lack of education, gender inequality and migrant workers.

Activity: In a group can you think about why these factors affect the rate of HIV/AIDS?

The SA government has now agreed to provide antiretroviral therapy, which suppresses the virus, through the public health system. This is positive but they are not yet widely available and many people in South Africa need more education about the disease. It is estimated that only 20% of women in SA know how HIV is contracted.

Activity: How much do you know about HIV/AIDS? Play our true or false game overleaf

AIDS Orphans

It is estimated that there were 1.1 million AIDS orphans living in South Africa at the end of 2003. Some of these orphans live in SOS Villages. SOS Children also supports families affected by HIV/AIDS in their community through our schools, medical centres and social centres.

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SOS Children's Villages
the world's largest orphan charity



SOUTHERN AFRICA

True or False:

Focus on the UK: The UK is not as seriously affected by HIV/AIDS as South Africa but it is still a very important and growing issue. At the end of March 2006, 78,883 people had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the UK. It is important to know the facts about HIV/AIDS. Play our True or False game to test your knowledge and learn more. (Answers and discussion points on the next sheet)

How to play: You can do this activity either on paper or as a physical game. One end of the school hall can be named false and the other true. Each statement is called out and the pupils have to run to the end that they think is the correct answer. This can then lead to a class discussion about myths associated with HIV/AIDS and the facts.

T or F: You can contract HIV/AIDS by hugging a HIV+ person.

T or F: You can contract HIV/AIDS if you only have sex once.

T or F: In the UK the largest category of people now being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are gay men.

T or F: The contraceptive pill protects you from contracting HIV/AIDS.

T or F: You can't tell by looking at someone if they are HIV+

T or F: In most African countries people have access to antiretroviral treatment

T or F: You cannot contract HIV/AIDS from a toilet seat.

T or F: 19.3 Million people around the world are HIV+.

T or F: If I was infected by HIV/AIDS I would know because I would feel sick.

T or F: You can live a full and positive life if you have HIV/AIDS.

How did you do?



True or False: Answers and discussion points.

1. **False**

You can contract HIV/AIDS by:

- Having unprotected sexual intercourse (either vaginal or anal) with someone who is HIV+
- Having unprotected oral sex with someone who is HIV+
- Sharing needles or syringes with someone who is HIV+
- Infection during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.
- Blood transfusion in a country where blood is not tested for HIV virus.

2. **True** You are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS every time you have sex with a person who may be HIV+. Unless they have been tested they can not be sure your sexual partner is not HIV+

3. **False** Since 1999 the largest category of people being tested positive for HIV/AIDS in the UK were heterosexual.

4. **False** The only form of contraception that protects you from HIV/AIDS is a correctly used condom. Do you know where to get condoms?

5. **True** An infected person can appear completely healthy, they can however still pass on HIV.

6. **False** Of the 4.7 million people who are HIV + in Sub-Saharan Africa only 17% have access to antiretroviral treatment.

7. **True** You cannot contract HIV/AIDS from a toilet seat, mosquitoes bites, touching, sharing plates.

8. **False** It is double. 38.6 million people around the world are HIV positive.

9. **False** It is estimated that 34% of those living with HIV/AIDS in the UK do not know they are positive.

10. **True** People who are HIV+, particularly when they have access to antiretroviral treatment, can live for a very long time. The hardest thing can be overcoming the stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS.